# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

In Re:	§	
	§	
Sadler Clinic, PLLC,	§	Case No.: 12-34546
	§	
and	§	
	§	
<b>Montgomery County</b>	§	Case No.: 12-34547
Management Company, LLC	§	
2 2	§	<b>Substantively Consolidated</b>
Debtors	§	<b>Under Case No. 12-34546</b>
	§	(Chapter 7)
	§	
Allison D. Byman,	§	
Chapter 7 Trustee	§	
	§	
v.	§	Adversary No
	§	-
<b>Optiquest Internet Services, Inc.</b>	§	

# TRUSTEE'S COMPLAINT TO AVOID TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 547, OR ALTERNATIVELY 11 U.S.C. § 548, TO RECOVER SUCH TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 550 AND TO DISALLOW PROOF OF CLAIM UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 502(d)

COMES NOW, Allison D. Byman, Chapter 7 Trustee for the above-captioned substantively consolidated bankruptcy estate (the "*Trustee*" or "*Plaintiff*"), and respectfully files her *Complaint to Avoid Transfers Pursuant to 11 U.S.C.* § 547, or Alternatively Under 11 U.S.C. § 548, to Recover Such Transfers Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 550, and Disallow Proof of Claim Under 11 U.S.C. § 502(d) against Optiquest Internet Services, Inc. and shows:

# RELIEF REQUESTED

1. The Trustee seeks avoidance and recovery of transfers totaling \$96,598.27 from Optiquest Internet Services, Inc.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction of this adversary proceeding under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and 157. Relief is sought pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 547, 548 and 550 and other applicable law.
- 3. This adversary is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A), (F), (H), and (O). The Trustee consents to the entry of final orders or judgment by the bankruptcy judge if it is determined that the bankruptcy judge, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgment consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.
- 4. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409(a) because the above-captioned bankruptcy case is pending before this Court.

#### THE PARTIES

- 5. Allison D. Byman is the duly qualified and acting Chapter 7 Trustee for the above-captioned substantively consolidated bankruptcy estate of Sadler Clinic, PLLC ("Sadler") and Montgomery County Management Company, LLC ("MCMC") (Sadler and MCMC are referred to herein individually as the "Debtor" and collectively as the "Debtors").
- 6. Optiquest Internet Services, Inc. ("*Defendant*") is a Texas corporation and may be served with process by serving its registered agent Raymond Duroy, at 780 Westridge Rd., The Woodlands, Texas 77380 by any means provided for under the Bankruptcy Code.

### **RELEVANT FACTS**

- 7. On June 15, 2012 (the "*Petition Date*"), the Debtors each filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 8. On August 2, 2012, the Court converted the cases to Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. Thereafter, Allison D. Byman was appointed Chapter 7 Trustee to administer the assets of the bankruptcy estates.

- 9. On September 16, 2013, the Court granted the Trustee's *Motion to Substantively Consolidate the Debtors' Bankruptcy Estates* [Main Case Docket Nos. 468 & 474] thereby substantively consolidating the two estates for all intents and purposes. The Trustee moved for substantive consolidation primarily based upon the Debtors' relationship under the Management Services Agreement and because a large majority of the creditors apparently dealt with the Debtors as a single economic unit and did not rely on their separate identities in extending credit. MCMC's sole source of money was from the accounts receivables generated by Sadler.
- 10. On March 16, 2012, Sadler and/or MCMC made a payment in the amount of \$26,040.69 to the Defendant (the "First Transfer"). The First Transfer was in the form of a check—check number 52025—from the bank account ending 9783. The Defendant deposited the check in its bank account. The check cleared the payor bank on March 21, 2012. On information and belief, the Defendant received the First Transfer and such was credited to its bank account. The First Transfer was payment on an antecedent debt owed by Sadler and/or MCMC to the Defendant.
- 11. On March 23, 2012, Sadler and/or MCMC made a payment in the amount of \$23,194.44 to the Defendant (the "Second Transfer"). The Second Transfer was in the form of a check—check number 52136—from the bank account ending 9783. The Defendant deposited the check in its bank account. The check cleared the payor bank on March 29, 2012. On information and belief, the Defendant received the Second Transfer and such was credited to its bank account. The Second Transfer was payment on an antecedent debt owed by Sadler and/or MCMC to the Defendant.
- 12. On April 13, 2012, Sadler and/or MCMC made a payment in the amount of \$23,681.57 to the Defendant (the "*Third Transfer*"). The Third Transfer was in the form of a

check—check number 52478—from the bank account ending 9783. The Defendant deposited the check in its bank account. The check cleared the payor bank on April 18, 2012. On information and belief, the Defendant received the Third Transfer and such was credited to its bank account. The Third Transfer was payment on an antecedent debt owed by Sadler and/or MCMC to the Defendant.

- 13. On May 24, 2012, Sadler and/or MCMC made a payment in the amount of \$23,681.57 to the Defendant (the "Fourth Transfer"). The Fourth Transfer was in the form of an ACH from the bank account ending 9783. The Defendant received the ACH in its bank account. On information and belief, the Defendant received the Fourth Transfer and such was credited to its bank account. The Fourth Transfer was payment on an antecedent debt owed by Sadler and/or MCMC to the Defendant.
- 14. The First Transfer, Second Transfer, Third Transfer and Fourth Transfer are collectively referred to as the "*Transfers*".
- 15. The Transfers were made during the ninety (90) days immediately preceding the Petition Date. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 547(f), the Debtors are presumed to have been insolvent during the ninety (90) days before the Petition Date.
  - 16. The Trustee asserts that unsecured creditors will not be paid in full.

# COUNT I – TRANSFER AVOIDABLE UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 547

- 17. The Trustee re-alleges and incorporates all of the foregoing and ensuing allegations as if fully set forth herein at length.
  - 18. The Trustee would show the Transfers are avoidable under 11 U.S.C. § 547.
  - 19. Section 547(b) of the Code provides:

Except as provided in subsections (c) and (i) of this section, the trustee may avoid any transfer of an interest of the debtor in property—

- (1) to or for the benefit of a creditor;
- (2) for or on account of an antecedent debt owed by the debtor before such transfer was made;
- (3) made while the debtor was insolvent;
- (4) made—
  - (A) on or within 90 days before the date of the filing of the petition; . . .
- (5) that enables such creditor to receive more than such creditor would receive if—
  - (A) the case were a case under chapter 7 of this title:
  - (B) the transfer had not been made; and
  - (C) such creditor received payment of such debt to the extent provided by the provisions of this title.<sup>1</sup>
- 20. Under 11 U.S.C. § 547(b), the Transfers constitute an avoidable preference.
- 21. The Transfers to the Defendant constitute transfers of an interest of Sadler and/or MCMC in property.
  - 22. The Transfers were to or for the benefit of the Defendant.
- 23. The Transfers were for or on account of an antecedent debt owed by Sadler and/or MCMC before it made such payment.
  - 24. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 547(f), the Debtors are presumed to have been insolvent.
  - 25. The Transfers were made on or within ninety (90) days before the Petition Date.
- 26. The Transfers enabled the Defendant to receive more than what the Defendant would have received if (i) the case were a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code; (ii) the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 11 U.S.C. §547(b).

Transfer had not been made; and (iii) the Defendant received payment of such debt to the extent provided by the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

# COUNT II – TRANSFER AVOIDABLE UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 548

- 27. The Trustee re-alleges and incorporates all of the foregoing and ensuing allegations as if fully set forth herein at length.
- 28. In the *alternative*, the Transfers are avoidable by the Trustee under 11 U.S.C. § 548.
  - 29. The Transfers are a fraudulent transfer under 11 U.S.C. § 548.
  - 30. The Transfers were an interest of MCMC in property.
  - 31. The Transfers were made within one year prior to the Petition Date.
- 32. MCMC received less than reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers, and MCMC (a) was insolvent when the Transfers were made or became insolvent as a result of such transfers, (b) were engaged or was about to engage in a business or transaction for which the Debtor's remaining property was unreasonably small capital, or (c) intended to incur or believed that the Debtor would incur, debts beyond Debtor's ability to pay as they became due.

### COUNT III – TRANSFER RECOVERABLE UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 550

- 33. The Trustee re-alleges and incorporates all of the foregoing and ensuing allegations as if fully set forth herein at length.
  - 34. The Trustee would show the Transfer is recoverable under 11 U.S.C. § 550.
  - 35. Section 550(a)(1) of the Code provides that:

Except as otherwise provided in this section, to the extent that a transfer is avoided under section . . . 547, 548 . . . of this title, the trustee may recover, for the benefit of the estate, the property

transferred, or, if the court so orders, the value of such property, from—

- a. the initial transferee of such transfer or the entity for whose benefit such transfer was made; . . . <sup>2</sup>
- 36. The defendant was the initial transferee of the Transfers.
- 37. The Trustee is entitled to avoid and recover the Transfers from the Defendant under either 11 U.S.C. §§ 547 and 550 or 11 U.S.C. §§ 548 and 550.

## COUNT IV – ANY CLAIMS DISALLOWED UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 502(d)

- 38. The Trustee re-alleges and incorporates all of the foregoing and ensuing allegations as if fully set forth herein at length.
- 39. The Defendant filed proof of claim number 81 in Case Number 12-34546. Disallowance of the Defendant's proof of claim [Case No. 12-34546, Claim No. 81] is proper because the Defendant is in possession of a transfer avoidable under Section 547, and property recoverable under Section 550, unless the Defendant pays the amount, or turns over any such property, for which Defendant is liable under Section 550.

### **RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Allison D. Byman, Chapter 7 Trustee for the above-captioned substantively consolidated bankruptcy estate, prays that this Court enter judgment in her favor as set forth above and to grant all further relief to which she is justly entitled.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 11 U.S.C. § 550(a)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 11 U.S.C. §§ 502(d), 547.

# DATED this 13th day of June, 2014.

# Respectfully submitted,

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**CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE**